

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 24, with the following paragraph:

The transmitting-end station 81 includes an encoder 84, a phase alignment unit 85, electrical-optical converters (OS1, OS2) 86 and 87, and a wavelength-multiplexing unit ~~87~~88. The receiving-end station 82 includes a wavelength-demultiplexing unit 91, optical-electrical converters (OR1, OR2) 92 and 93, and a decoder 94.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 2, with the following paragraph:

The transmitting-end station 151 includes a frame-generating and SOH-inserting unit 154, an encoder 155 and an electrical-optical converter (OS) 156. The receiving-end station 152 includes an optical-electrical converter (OR) 157, a memory unit 158, a decoder 159, an SOH terminating unit 160 and a frame number and top detector ~~160~~161.